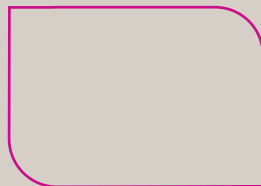


# SCHOOL LIFE IN YEARS 8-12

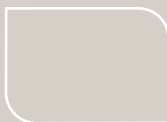


The School's curriculum is a blend of traditional subjects from the Sciences, Arts, Humanities and Languages alongside more practical and contemporary subjects. Pupils have a wide range of subjects to choose from when they reach GCSE and A Level years and the likelihood is that the range will grow as collaboration arrangements develop with other schools. Regular assessments take place in all subjects and reports are sent home to inform parents about pupils' progress and effort.



## KEY STAGE 3 – Years 8, 9 and 10

Pupils enter the School in Year 8 and are placed in one of four unstreamed classes. The subjects studied include: English, Mathematics, Science, History, Geography, French, Art & Design, Music, Design & Technology, Food Technology, Information & Communication Technology, Religious Education, Physical Education and Learning for Life and Work (LLW). In Years 9 and 10 pupils are streamed in the main academic subjects with two classes working at an accelerated pace and two classes working at a regular pace for grammar school pupils. The LLW component allows pupils an opportunity to explore issues related to citizenship, employability, personal development and drama.



## KEY STAGE 4 – Years 11 and 12 (GCSE)

All pupils study English, Mathematics, Science and a Modern Language; and in addition they take non-examination classes in Religious Education, Careers, LLW and Physical Education. As in Years 9 and 10 some of the classes are streamed to allow pupils a chance to work at an appropriate pace. In Science, pupils elect to study Double Award Science (where each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics is studied for part of the course and two GCSEs awarded) or Triple Award Science where each of the three sciences is studied separately and three GCSEs awarded. Pupils then select two or three options from: Art, Business Studies, Design & Technology, Food Science, Geography, German, History, Information & Communication Technology, Music, Religious Education and Spanish.



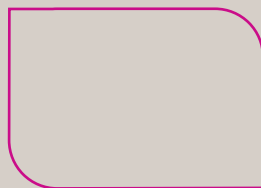


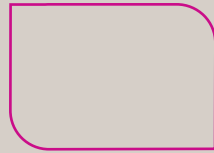
The focus at RSD is on learning. We value knowledge and wish all pupils to have a sound understanding of the subjects they study. From this starting point pupils develop the skills and habits necessary to be successful: firstly, in their studies and in public examinations; and secondly, in their life beyond RSD as they learn about themselves. Teachers provide feedback for pupils and indicate how pupils can improve. There is a sense of teachers and pupils working together, sharing responsibility for the learning which takes place.

The curriculum at RSD is challenging and deliberately so. We want our pupils to develop a sense of resilience, an understanding that learning and success does not come easily but has to be worked for, patiently and with a sense of perseverance. Pupils leave RSD both well-qualified, with excellent examination results, and well educated, knowing more about themselves and their own capabilities.

RSD is a caring School which aims to promote pupils' welfare and to provide a clear disciplinary structure. Expectations of behaviour and attendance are high and teachers provide guidance and set standards. All pupils are encouraged to participate in the School's broader life and to play a part in the House competition which unites pupils across the various Year Groups. Pupil achievements are celebrated in Assembly and at the Senior and Junior Prize Giving occasions each year. Pupils are encouraged to take responsibility and to help lead the School through its many clubs and societies and a School Council enables pupils of all ages to voice their opinions about many aspects of School life.

We work hard to ensure that entering RSD as a new Year 8 pupil is a reassuring and exciting experience. RSD staff visit primary schools and new pupils enjoy an induction day in the School where they meet their teachers, including their form teachers, and are introduced to the routines and procedures which govern School life. Year 8 pupils are also provided with a 'buddy' from the Sixth Form who can help resolve any initial problems. Difficult issues such as bullying are tackled openly at the beginning of Year 8, during 'Anti-Bullying Week', and this provides a firm understanding for all when dealing with the issue thereafter. If any pupil feels distressed we have a School Counsellor who can provide ongoing support. After a few weeks we hold a Year 8 Parents' Evening where teachers and parents can mingle and hear how pupils have been settling in at RSD. By the time the first term is ending Year 8 pupils tend to feel settled and confident in their understanding of the School's ethos and routines





Sport is a major factor in life at RSD. We offer a wide range of sports to all pupils and encourage all pupils to participate and to enjoy sport. There is a sense of 'sport for all' and a belief that sport provides all of us with a chance to stay fit and healthy. Moreover, sport provides us with a chance to seek the best from ourselves whilst at the same time contributing to a team. Just as in the classroom, sport represents a good opportunity for all of us to learn something about ourselves.



The School's major winter sports are rugby for boys and hockey for girls and a number of teams are fielded for Saturday games at various age groups each week. Training and dedication are emphasised in RSD sports teams. Raw talent is nurtured but hard work and commitment are always the platform for success. By the end of Year 8 boys will be playing competitive rugby for the Arnold Shield and in Years 9 and 10 the squad is training every week after School and playing friendlies throughout the year in preparation for the tournaments held around Easter. Enter Year 11 and the Medallion squad will even be fitting in a game or two during the Christmas holidays in preparation for the Medallion Shield competition which kicks off in January. Once in Years 12-14 there is training three times a week and the prospect of a run in the Schools' Cup as well as the weekly fixtures. Hockey provides a similar picture.



Training and playing together allows for the strengthening of friendships as the pupils get to spend time together after school hours. They also begin to rely on each other as they realise the importance of teamwork. As well as the competitive side of the sport, hockey offers a way to 'let off steam' and take a break from study. The excellent sports facilities at RSD combined with the dedication and passion of the coaching staff offer the perfect setting for the girls to learn and develop hockey skills. This allows every girl to reach her full potential and contribute to a team.

**Lisa Reid, UVI and 1st XI Hockey Captain**



I have gained great rewards from taking part in rugby at school. The wide variety of sports available in RSD means that there is something for everyone to become involved in and enjoy.

**Peter Nelson, LVI**



Perhaps the highlight of any rugby or hockey season is a tour. In recent years RSD rugby and hockey clubs have travelled to Spain, Italy and Portugal but undoubtedly the most memorable and eagerly anticipated tour is "down under" to Australia and New Zealand, with a stopover at Dilworth School cementing the special bond which exists between our two schools.





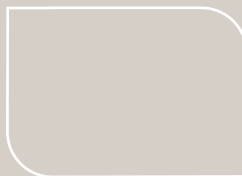
In addition to rugby and hockey, we offer cricket, athletics, swimming, golf, tennis, table tennis, showjumping and shooting. Many of our teams are entered for competitions and, just as in rugby and hockey, the most skilled and dedicated performers are often selected for representative honours at regional, Ulster and even Ireland level. Our U-15 girls' Table Tennis team is currently Ulster Champions and our Shooting Club has been successful at numerous competitions, including the Northern Ireland Championship where the team secured both of the major team prizes and a host of individual trophies and medals, returning with three individual Ulster champions in the different age categories.



I enjoy playing table tennis at RSD as it offers opportunities to travel and meet players from other schools and teams from all over Ireland. As an individual I can set goals and push myself to play to my full potential but the best part is playing as a team. The RSD under-15 girls' team is now Ulster champions. We help each other improve and encourage one another to try our best and, hopefully, win. Playing table tennis also keeps me very fit, especially the training sessions in the summer. Many people do not realise how much effort and fitness is needed to play the sport at the top level. Receiving trophies and medals in table tennis boosts my confidence and helps me to continue training hard to gain bigger and better achievements in individual and team events.



**Kerry Jones, Form V**



I have been a member of the School's Showjumping Team for nearly four years. We have two teams, each with three or four competitors, and we compete at showjumping events each month, travelling to the Meadows Equestrian Centre, Knockaview Lodge or Balmoral. There are two different heights at which we can compete – 85cm or 1m. It is a lot of fun and at Christmas time we wear Santa hats and tinsel. I really enjoy representing the School at showjumping competitions because it is a team event and everybody works well together.



**Amy Whittle, Form IV**



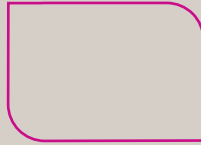
I have been shooting for three years and really enjoy it, as it has afforded me the opportunity for travel and to meet new people of various backgrounds and cultures from all over the world. Highlights have included going on tour (Scotland in 2007, Cumbria in 2009) and competing for the Northern Ireland Junior Squad on a number of occasions in the Isle of Man, Scotland and England, culminating in August 2009 when along with three other pupils from R.S.D I represented Northern Ireland at the Junior International Championships at Bisley and the team won two gold medals and one silver.



**Stephanie Ferguson, UVI**



# EXTRA CURRICULAR & ENRICHMENT



At RSD we want pupils to have an experience of School which is memorable for all the right reasons. There is a huge commitment to extra-curricular and enrichment activities from the teaching staff and pupils alike and it is generally considered to be one of the most important ingredients in creating the “RSD spirit”. Whether it is events and activities organised by our many clubs and societies or trips abroad organised by Departments the School is always buzzing with activity and opportunity.



Over 200 RSD pupils are regularly involved in music with some learning an instrument for the first time while others are heading towards final examinations and certificates. The Junior Choir, Chamber Choir and Senior Choir perform at the major School events and in many other venues throughout Ireland, delighting audiences with eight part harmonies across a wide range of musical genres. The Orchestra and the School Band, alongside the various ensembles and solo performers, provide the backbone of the Spring Concert. Whether it is for pleasure or for academic study and a possible career, music plays a central role in pupils' lives at RSD.

Drama is another favourite and the cast and crew of the School Play each year will often number close on 100 pupils, with costumes, make-up, sound, lighting and set design every bit as involving as the acting or singing and dancing. Serious drama, such as “The Visit”, comedy, the classics and favourite musicals, such as “The King and I”, all have their turn on the RSD stage, culminating in a four-night run for the main production. Drama also features at Junior Prize Giving when many of our stars of the future take their bow on the RSD stage.



Choir is a fun way to spend lunchtimes and you get to take part in School events. There is also a wide variety of musical instruments to choose from and have lessons for and it means you can join the band when you are good enough.



**Cheryl Armstrong, Year 8**



You can take a lead part in the School Play when you are a senior but often there are support roles for juniors. A group of Year 8, 9 and 10 pupils performed as the children's choir in 'The Visit'. As well as that juniors perform at Junior Prize Giving, playing instruments, reciting poems and acting out sketches. I was lucky enough to take part in the drama sketch and really enjoyed it.



**Amy Burnett, Year 8**



We are all brought together - no matter what the skill, no matter what the talent; together as friends where we can all make music.



**Aisling Napier, LVI**





Not content with music and drama, RSD pupils throw themselves in to a host of other activities, such as the Debating Society, the Junior Book Club, Science Club, Chess Club, the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, the Magazine Team, the Website Team, Young Enterprise, 'Breakthru', the Charities Committee and the Scripture Union (SU). Highlights in the year include the SU weekend away (which is always oversubscribed), the Duke of Edinburgh expedition and the various charity events organised by the Charities Committee ('Faculty Fortunes' and 'The RSD Factor' in recent times). In addition, the Charities Committee nominates particular charities each year and School events such as the Funfair and Sponsored Walk are used to raise funds to help these worthy causes. Working under the auspices of the 1608 Group, alongside the other four 'Royal' schools and the Fields of Life charity, RSD is currently committed to supporting the erection of a new 'Royal School' in Uganda for children who have no educational opportunities on offer at the moment.



Book Club is a relaxing way to spend Wednesday lunchtime. You never know what you will be reading about next!



**Kalem Todd, Year 8**



For the past five years at RSD I have been involved in our School SU. For Forms I-III the SU meets each Monday at lunchtime and for Forms IV-UVI we meet after school on a Friday. It's a great way to relax after a stressful week at school. There is always happy singing, a speaker and testimonies. We also have a Christmas party with our annual secret Santa or Christmas angels! During the spring term the SU takes the annual Easter service which is always very interesting. In SU both pupils and teachers play an active role with a student committee "chaired" by teachers. SU is great fun and very worthwhile and new members are always welcome.



**Bethany Hadden, Form V**



Spending three days and two nights with a group of seven people on the The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme is definitely an experience that is going to provide lots of laughter.



**Cherie McCammon, UVI**



The expedition in the Mournes was a wonderful experience. You really feel a sense of achievement and you get on a lot better with the rest of your group. As well as these points the 'banter' was always good.



**Gordon Stewart, Form V**



The RSD website team meets each week and the school's Intranet site and Website are updated and new features are suggested, designed and added. The team has been growing steadily and now boasts over 30 members. A committee is elected for the year, consisting of a Website Director, Intranet Manager, Academic Manager, Sports Manager and an Extra Curricular Manager, and they meet weekly to propose and discuss ideas and updates.



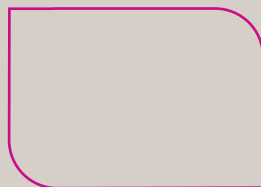
**The Website Team**



# LIFE IN SIXTH FORM



The Sixth Form at RSD is probably where the sense of a community is most obvious as the relationship between pupils and staff blossoms into a sense of working together for a common purpose. Young men and women in the Sixth Form are expected to accept responsibility and to learn to play the role of organiser and leader. The teams of Prefects and House officials play a vital role in organising and administering a host of School events but their maturity and loyalty is simply indicative of a much broader attitude within the Sixth Form. Our aim is to ensure that each pupil leaves RSD knowing something about the subjects they studied but also that he or she knows more about him or her self and has a sense of public service.



The Curriculum in the Sixth Form is primarily academic as the vast majority of RSD pupils seek (and gain) entry to university, including Oxford and Cambridge and the high performing 'Russell Group' universities such as Queen's University Belfast. A number of pupils also enter the newer universities, including the University of Ulster, to take courses which are often contemporary in focus and attractive to employers. Unsurprisingly, therefore, results in AS and A Level examinations are exceptionally strong, reflecting the hard work of pupils and the quality of resources, facilities and teaching offered at RSD.

The main subjects on offer are: Art & Design, Biology, Chemistry, Design & Technology, Economics, English Literature, Food Science, French, Further Mathematics, Geography, German, History, Information & Communication Technology, Mathematics, Music, Physical Education, Physics, Politics, Religious Education.

In addition, RSD has developed links with two other grammar schools, St Patrick's Academy and St Joseph's Donaghmore, and the list of main subjects pupils elect to study is now broader, with Psychology, Business Studies and Media Studies augmenting the RSD offer. A broader 'enrichment' curriculum allows pupils to study religious education and to participate in games and courses such as the Young Enterprise scheme.

Life in the Sixth Form is in some ways similar to being a pupil lower down the School but in many ways it is different. One of the biggest changes is that in studying four AS Levels in the Lower Sixth and (usually) three A Levels in the Upper Sixth, pupils find themselves with 'free' periods without lessons. Making use of that time is crucial and Sixth Formers are expected to work independently and to show initiative in prioritising what to study and the resources to use. The Library, the Murray Study and IT facilities are all available to help. Pupils can also elect to spend some of their 'free' periods in the Sixth Form Centre and relax with a cup of tea or coffee as they plan the next big School event, such as the Formal.





The Sixth Form is also about new experiences and broadening horizons. Many Sixth Formers enjoy the great number of opportunities to try new things and to go on visits and trips. One of the most popular is the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme which puts pupils in a team environment and stretches each individual. Another is the 'Breakthru' drugs awareness scheme which allows RSD pupils to play a role in the broader community. The 'Young Enterprise' scheme provides Sixth Formers with an opportunity to learn how a small business works whilst budding journalists and website designers will be attracted to the Magazine Committee and Website Team respectively. Add to this the regular visits to academic conferences, fieldwork trips and trips overseas, such as to Rome, Paris and London, and it is not difficult to see why so many RSD Sixth Formers develop such a strong affinity with the School.



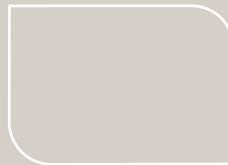
I have enjoyed taking part in Breakthru for the past two years. At the beginning of Lower Sixth I volunteered through school in the peer education scheme and through this I was able to take part in the cross community Youth Forum. I learned a lot about the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse but I also learned about the importance of being organised and motivating others.

**Jessica Steele, UVI**



I thought that completing the Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award was a great experience. The expedition was good fun and really helped me to grow as a person. The service and skill sections of the award were great opportunities to help the local community and to try new things.

**Philip Hagan, LVI**



The teachers here are not just teachers; they are our friends. As we have progressed from first year to sixth year, our teachers have treated us as adults.

**Sarah Ferguson, UVI**



Sixth form at RSD appealed to me because of the excellent reputation the school holds. The academic and extra-curricular opportunities are outstanding. I was welcomed by Staff and pupils alike, and I feel like I have been here from first year.

**Joy Coote, LVI**



Study periods are great, and personal study is made so easy because the libraries have so many books and magazines to help you read around your subjects.

**Jenny Thompson, LVI**



The Sixth Form Centre is a great place to relax and chat with friends with a cup of tea and a snack.

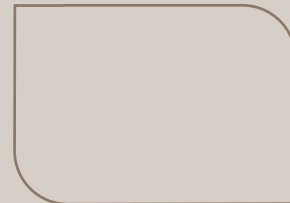
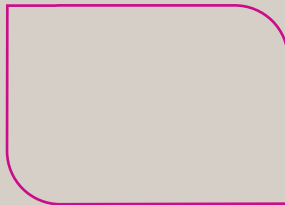
**Simon Clarke, UVI**



# BOARDING



The Royal School Dungannon offers Boarders the option of 5 and 7 day boarding, catering for both local pupils and those from overseas. Boarding staff pride themselves on their high standard of pastoral care. The school continues to invest in new and upgraded boarding facilities on an annual basis.



Pupils are accommodated in small dormitories for two or four people. The Boarding House has a very vibrant atmosphere with a clear ethos of making all Boarders feel relaxed and at ease in a homely environment.

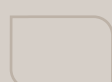
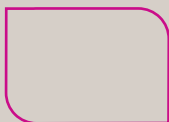
Both the Girls' and Boys' wings have a comfortable communal sitting/television area as well as a kitchen where pupils can have cold drinks as well as make cups of tea, coffee, cocoa and other meals. They can also enjoy snacks such as toast or sandwiches in the evenings and at weekends. Washing facilities consist of a communal bathroom with washbasins and shower cubicles. Housekeeping staff maintain a high standard of tidiness and cleanliness on a daily basis.

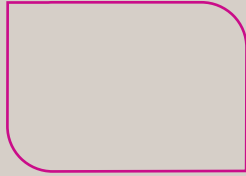
The Boarding team consists of nine teaching staff, five of whom are resident throughout the week. They are supported by a day Matron as well as two Night Matrons and several housekeeping staff.

Three meals are provided each day: breakfast, lunch and dinner, and additionally supper is provided for every evening. The three meals are taken in the dining hall with an informal atmosphere between Boarders and Staff being an important feature at mealtimes.

Boarders enjoy access to the library and ICT facilities each day and also at weekends. A number of teachers supervise homework and are available to help boarders with their studies.

Weekends are a busy time for the pupils, who may be involved in various sports fixtures, or who may use their time to pursue a favourite hobby, perhaps through a school club. Often, the school organises day or weekend trips away, allowing pupils to experience activities and events outside the daily school environment.





Extra English lessons are provided for those overseas Boarders who require additional support in English. Lessons are given to higher, intermediate and beginner groups by a fully qualified EFL Teacher on a twice weekly basis.

### Weekday Boarder's Routine

- 7:30 Wake up
- 7:50 Breakfast
- 8:45 – 3:35 School
- 3:35 – 5:30 Free time
- 5:30 – 6:15 Dinner
- 6:15 – 7:45 Prep / Homework
- 7:45 – 9:30 / 10:30 Recreation time
- 9:30 /10:30 Junior / Senior Bedtime



Throughout my time in the RSD boarding department I haven't only broadened my knowledge, but also achieved independence and built up important relationships with other boarders. Being a boarder isn't just about getting an education but also, particularly in RSD, to obtain a sociable and enjoyable life. RSD boarding department provides a wide range of activities. For example, Tuesdays are our sports nights. In Addition, we always have Christmas dinner in order to create a homely and festive atmosphere. Boarding in RSD truly provided us with many essential ingredients which prepare us for the future whether in the world of work or further education.



**Ray Chan, UVI**



I love living with friends and I've met a large number of good friends, no matter where they come from. The staff have helped me a lot when I have struggled with different aspects of living away from home. Oh, and we definitely can't leave out the most interesting activity – shopping in Belfast. The school even provides the transport to take us there. RSD boarding staff look after us all very well and I can guarantee you that you'll love it so much!



**Maggie Chan, Form III**



I have only been at the school for three years but already, I have achieved a sense of independence that will remain with me for the rest of my life. In boarding we are like one big family. We are served three good meals daily and cared for extremely well by our boarding teachers and matrons as well as the kitchen staff and cleaners who feed us and keep our dormitories tidy and the laundry running. When I first came into boarding I was pleasantly surprised by our spacious dormitory and the sense of cosiness in the entire boarding area. The best part of boarding is having the opportunity to meet lots of new friends from other parts of the world, and having a wider choice of extra-curricular activities as we are always in school.



**Alexander McMaster, Form III**

